

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 128836

P 221930Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2161  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1224  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 711

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2172

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS CU GY AO

SUBJ: TRANSIT FACILITIES FOR CUBAN MILITARY FLIGHTS

REF: A. STATE 300224; B. GEORGETOWN 2151

1. HAVING PICKED UP OUTSIDE TIP THAT CUBA HAS NOW REQUESTED TRANSIT FACILITIES, I PHONED GOG FONMIN FRED WILLS. I SAID I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE AMUSED TO KNOW THAT WHEN I SPOKE TO HIM ON FRIDAY ABOUT QUOTE BEING AHEAD OF THE GAME UNQUOTE, IT TURNED OUT THAT MY REPLY WAS BARELY AHEAD OF THE INQUIRY I RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON, THE TWO MESSAGES CROSSING ROUTE. WITHOUT FURTHER ADO WILLS SAID GOG NOW HAS REQUEST FROM CUBAN EMBASSY FOR TRANSIT FACILITIES.

2. WILLS ADDED THAT WHEN REQUEST INITIALLY MADE ORALLY BY CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL, HE ASKED WHETHER LATTER ACTING ON OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM HAVANA. WHEN CUBAN UNABLE REPLY AFFIRMATIVELY, WILLS ASKED HIM  
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TO MAKE REQUEST IN WRITTEN FORM AND SAID IN MEANTIME

HE OULD START GOG MACHINERY IN ORDER TO HAVE A PROMPT ANSWER.

3. WILLS SAID HE HAS REVIEWED EXISTING BILATERAL AVIATION AGREEMENT WITH CUBA AND IT MAKES NO REPEAT NO PROVISION FOR MILITARY FLIGHTS AND FURTHERMORE GIVES ONWARD TRAFFIC RIGHTS ONLY TO WEST AFRICA. WILLS SAID HIS RECOMMENDATION TO PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM IS THAT IF GOG GRANTS TRANSIT FACILITIES FOR CUBAN MILITARY FLIGHTS ENROUTE TO AFRICA IT WILL BE TANTAMOUNT TO INTERVENTION BY GUYANA IN ANGOLAN CONFLICT AND POLITICALLY WOULD AMOUNT TO OUTFLANKING KAUNDA. HE SAID HE COULD SEE NO RPT NO OBJECTION TO GRANTING TRANSIT FACILITIES FOR CUBAN MILITARY FLIGHTS RETURNING FROM AFRICA TO CUBA, SINCE THESE WOULD PRE-SUMABLY BE QUOTE HUMANITARIAN UNQUOTE IN NATURE.

4. AS INTIMATED BY EARLIER MESSAGE (REFTEL B) OUR TRACK RECORD IN ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE GOG TO COME DOWN ON OUR SIDE OF CRITICAL INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS IS SUCH THAT I WOULD HAVE STRONG DOUBT THAT A HIGH-LEVEL USG MESSAGE TO BURNHAM WOULD BE USEFUL IN THE PRESENT INSTANCE. IF ANYTHING IS LIKELY TO SWAY BURNHAM ON THIS QUESTION, IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE IN THE FORM OF PERSONAL PERSUASION FROM FELLOW LEADER OR LEADERS IN THE THIRD WORLD; FOR EXAMPLE A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT PEREZ OF VENEZUELA MIGHT CARRY SOME WEIGHT.  
KREBS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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